

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 11896 081250Z

53

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 SCCT-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 EB-07 SCS-03

SCA-01 /087 W

----- 032632

P R 080614Z OCT 75 ZEL

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6592

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 11896

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR TAGS AND SUBJ

E.O.; TAGS; AND SUBJECT LINES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: THE ETHIOPIAN POLITICAL SCENE: SALIENT DEVELOPMENTS

1. THE FOLLOWING SALIENT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE COME TO THE EMBASSY'S
ATTENTION DURING THE LAST FIVE DAYS:

A. INSURGENTS KILLED:

THE BIRU BROTHERS, MERID AND MESFIN, WHO HAVE BEEN LEADING AN
INSURGENCY IN MENZ FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, WERE CAPTURED AND KILLED
(OCTOBER 4) BY SECURITY FORCES. THEIR BODIES WERE EXHIBITED ON
ETHIOPIAN TELEVISION ON OCTOBER 6. THE IDENTITY OF THESE BODIES AS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 11896 081250Z

BEING INDEED THAT OF THE SONS OF RAS BIRU WAS CONFIRMED TO US BY AN

ETHIOPIAN PROFESSING TO BE WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE DECEASED. THE ETHIOPIAN TELEVISION ANNOUNCER ASSERTED THAT THE BIRU BROTHERS HAD BEEN CAUGHT WITH THE ACTIVE ASSISTANCE OF THE LOCAL CITIZENRY.

B. ARRESTS:

THE WAVE OF ARRESTS WHICH BEGAN FOLLOWING THE BOMBING OF THE ADDIS ABABA TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUILDING CONTINUES. THE NET IS BEING CAST VERY WIDE. ERITREANS, CELU UNION LEADERS AND SHOP STEWARDS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS, ZEMATCHOCH AND AMHARAS SUSPECTED OF DISLOYALTY ARE BEING SEIZED. WE HAVE NO WAY OF ESTIMATING THE NUMBER OF THOSE BEING DETAINED BUT WE BELIEVE IT TO BE LARGE. MANY OF THOSE ARRESTED ARE, OF COURSE, BEING RELEASED FOLLOWING INTERROGATION. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE DIRG IS REQUIRING OF EMPLOYERS A LIST OF ABSENTEES DURING THE RECENT WORK STOPPAGES HERE AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE REASONS FOR THEIR ABSENCE. WE KNOW OF CASES WHERE WORKERS HAVE BEEN PICKED UP ON THE STREETS AND EXCROTED TO THEIR JOBS. WE KNOW OF CASES WHERE THERE HAVE BEEN SRIATIM ARRESTS OF WORKERS (I.E., "MOENCO" WHERE TEN WERE ARRESTED OCT. 2 AND OCTOBER 3). WE BELIEVE THAT THE AUTHORITIES ARE CONCENTRATING PARTICULAR ATTENTION ON THE SIGNERS OF THE CELU RESOLUTION AND HAVE CONFIRMED THAT SEVERAL OF THESE LABOR LEADERS HAVE BEEN PICKED UP. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT THREE MEMBERS OF THE DIRG HAVE ALSO BEEN ARRESTED BUT WE HAVE THUS FAR BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THEM.

C. ADDIS INCIDENTS:

WE KNOW OF VARYING ARRESTS WHICH SPARKED INCIDENTS IN THE CAPITAL THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WHEN TROOPS AND POLICE CAME TO HIS RESIDENCE TO TAKE DR. GETACHEW HAILE (REPRESENTATIVE ON THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION), THERE WAS ARMED RESISTANCE RESULTING IN POLICE/MILITARY CASUALTIES. DR. GETACHEW IS CURRENTLY SAID TO BE IN HOSPITAL WITH A BULLET IN HIS SHOULDER. ARRESTED WITH HIM WERE DR. TADESSE BEYENE, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ZEMETCHA LITERACY CAMPAIGN (EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED SOON), AND ATO ZIGAB (TIGREAN) INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL OFFICER OF THE NATIONAL FAMILY GUIDANCE ASSOCIATION. WE KNOW THAT ON THE AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 4 SHOOTING ALSO ERUPTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARREST OF "ERITREANS" ON THE "PIAZZA" IN DOWNTOWN ADDIS, LEAVING THREE PERSONS DEAD. FIRING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 11896 081250Z

EPISODES ALSO OCCURRED IN THE UNIVERSITY/TAFARI MAKONNEN SCHOOL/ FIRST DIVISION AREA THAT NIGHT. THE ORIGIN OF THESE EPISODES ARE PRESUMABLY A MIX OF MILITARY AND POLICE JITTERS CONNECTED TO THE WAVE OF ARRESTS AND TO THE OCCASIONAL RESISTANCE BEING ENCOUNTERED. BE THAT AS IT MAY, THESE NIGHTTIME INCIDENTS INVOLVED THE DEPLOYMENT OF PRESUMED FOURTH DIVISION APC'S AND MACHINE GUN JEEPS AS WELL AS TROOPS IN THIS

PART OF THE CITY LEADING TO RUMORS, WHICH WE BELIEVE UNFOUNDED, THAT FOURTH AND FIRST DIVISION ELEMENTS HAD ENGAGED IN A CONFRONTATION. THE PROBLEMS OF THE U.S. DEFENSE ATTACHE CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF ONE OF THESE EPISODES ARE BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.

D. TROUBLE IN DESSIE:

ON OCTOBER 5, SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT IT WAS EVACUATING ITS MISSION STATION TWELVE KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF DESSIE AT A PLACE CALLED BORU MEDA. SIXTEEN EVACUEES INCLUDING SIX OF THE EIGHT AMERICAN CITIZENS THERE (DR. AND MRS. SCHEEL, MR. AND MRS. UNRUH AND TWO INFANTS) HAD DECIDED TO LEAVE. BOIDELL AND LOIS EMMEL, ALSO AMCITS, HAD DECIDED TO STAY, HOWEVER. ACCORDING TO SIM'S MR. CUMBERS, THE PULL-OUT WAS NECESSITATED BY THE CONVERGENT MOVEMENT OF TWO GROUPS OF INSURGENTS UPON THIS AREA.
HUMMEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL SUMMARIES, TERRORISTS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS11896
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750349-0453
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751072/aaaacld.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE ETHIOPIAN POLITICAL SCENE: SALIENT DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINS, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006